

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by chairman, Yale Cantor at 6:40 P.M.

PRESENT: Sue Stack, Yale Cantor, Melinda Ferry, Hassan Salley, Susanne Hannigan, Helen Filloramo, Anne Nickerson, Doris Crayton

OTHERS PRESENT: Laurie Burstein, BOS Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motioned (H. Filloramo), Seconded (S. Stack) and passed by all those present to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2008 meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Energy Program and Holiday Season of Sharing are our two major programs during the winter. Energy will end in May. Our appointments are currently booked into mid-December. The deadline to apply for the Season of Sharing was Friday, October 17, 2008. We are better organized and very timely in getting donors and recipients matched for the holidays.

Our food bank shelves are very low. We had to purchase cases of box and canned items from Costco this month in order to meet our request for food this month. On November 8th, the club scouts will hold their annual neighborhood food drive. Between this food drive and the holiday season we are hoping to fill our shelves again with enough items to carry us through the spring. This month the State increased the food stamp allotment and changed the name of the program to SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).

Elderly Services: The flu clinic was held on Tuesday, October 14th and had 165 participants. The Visiting Nurse and Health Services of CT administered the program. Emergency Management, the Registrar of Voters, North Central Health District and Human Services / Elderly Outreach all had informational tables set up. The voter table was well received .

Interviews for the position of bookkeeper /assistant to the senior center director will be held next week. Ten applicants will be interviewed in the two-day process.

We continue to have issues with reliable transportation for the senior center and EMATS (medical transport) Program. As this program grows it is important that our transportation is dependable. A meeting is being set up to address this matter with the First Selectman. The TOE car used by elderly outreach and the

EMATS Program was out of service for a full week. The senior center director and transportation secretary will attend an informational workshop next week given by State Department of Transportation (DOT) – Dial-A-Ride Program. There will be information on applying for upcoming transportation grants. As well as a question and answer session on the grant application.

Youth Services: On October 23rd Drug Abuse Prevention Council and Youth Services will present Anthony E. Wolf, psychologist, author, and columnist. Mr. Wolf will speak on "Tips on Parenting Tweens and Teens in today's world at 7 P.M. in the Ellington High School auditorium. Mr. Wolf currently serves on the advisory board of Century Council in Washington D.C. This council is mandated to combat underage drinking. A requested donation of \$5.00 will be accepted.

Our annual Halloween Party for children has been cancelled this year because of lack of a site. The schools were not available to us this year. Only the high school cafeteria was available for use but we need the gym in addition to the cafeteria. We are working on a new idea for next year. Parents want us to keep this activity in our program schedule. It was a very successful.


OLD BUSINESS: Ted Yampanis, Housing Authority Executive Director will request a meeting with the First Selectman to discuss elderly housing options and bring him up to date on our New Haven Housing Conference that we attended last month.

NEW BUSINESS: At the November meeting we will start the budget process for 2009-2010. Hockanum Valley and KIDSAFE CT will be invited to speak to the Commission about their programs and budget requests for the New Year.

The director requested that the December meeting be cancelled because of the holiday season of sharing. The Conference Room will be readied for drop off and pick up.

ADJOURNMENT: Motioned (M. Ferry), Seconded (H. Salley) and passed by all those present to adjourn at 7:35 P.M.

Submitted by,


Doris R. Crayton
Acting Secretary